

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and
a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having a semi-crystalline structure and at least one shoulder at 700°C or more without a peak at less than 700°C in differential thermal analysis, and the carbon shell including a metal, and the metal is Boron (B) ~~selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, an alkali metal and an earth metal, and the metal is an elemental metal.~~

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.

5. (Original) The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a(002) plane.

6. (Currently Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including secondary particles, the secondary particle being prepared by agglomerating at least one primary particle of a crystalline carbon, an amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having a semi-crystalline structure and at least one shoulder at 700°C or more without a peak at less than 700°C in differential thermal analysis, and the carbon shell including a metal ~~selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal, and the metal is an elemental metal,~~ and the metal is Boron (B).

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.

10. (Original) The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a (002) plane.

Claims 11-16 (Cancelled)